

Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs

BUDGET ESTIMATES - 2 JUNE 2011 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Human Services Portfolio

Topic: Participation Interviews

Question reference number: HSW 16

Senator: Fifield

Type of question: Written

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Question:

- a) How many participation interviews does Centrelink expect to undertake over the forward estimates as a result of the changes to DSP participation requirements outlined in the 2011-12 Budget?
- b) What is the expected cost of participation interview?
- c) What are the 'usual penalties' that would apply to people who fail to turn up to a participation interview?
- d) What is the expected length of time before the 'usual penalties' apply to someone who fails to turn up to a participation interview?

Answer:

- a) The table below displays the estimated number of participation interviews for Disability Support Pension recipients.

Financial Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Estimated number of participation interviews.	41,651	121,509	116,983

Note: the above table refers to participation interviews for the Building Australia's Future Workforce: Disability Support Pension Participation requirements.

- b)

Financial Year	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15
Total cost per participation interview.	\$94	\$94	\$95

- c) If a Disability Support Pension recipient aged under 35 and assessed as having a work capacity of eight hours or more a week does not attend their interview and does not contact the Department of Human Services (Centrelink), they will be contacted to make another interview time.

If they still do not attend, the Department of Human Services (Centrelink) may suspend their payment if they do not have a legitimate reason for not attending.

Before suspending a person's payment, the Department of Human Services (Centrelink) will make several attempts to contact the person by phone and mail to set a new date for the interview.

- d) The length of time will vary according to the circumstances of individual cases.